

Rotary



Club of Wauwatosa

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

Rotary membership provides the opportunity to: Become connected to your community. Work with others in addressing community needs. Interact with other professionals in your community; assist with RI's international humanitarian service efforts. Establish contacts with an international network of professionals. Develop leadership skills. Involve family in promoting service efforts.



Best Coffee In Town!

By John C Ericson on Saturday, August 29, 2020



Club Meeting

Wauwatosa
Meets at Radisson Hotel Milwaukee West
2303 N. Mayfair Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM

Events / Speakers

- September 16th
[Noted Milwaukee Psychologist, Dr. Julie Helmrich](#)
- September 30th
[Jonathan Lorenzen - Classification Talk](#)
- October 21st
[Pete Loeffel - Director, Wauwatosa Public Library](#)

Club Leaders



[Rick David Steinberg](#)
President



[Anne Ruttger Neafie](#)
President - Elect



[John A. Sebald](#)
Vice President



[Robert P. Niedermann CPA](#)
Treasurer



[Peter M. Skanavis](#)
Public Relations Chair



[Richard Frenn](#)
Sergeant - at - Arms



[Jonathan Lorenzen](#)
Sergeant - at - Arms



[Aaron D. Sebald](#)
Sergeant - at - Arms

[John C. Ericson](#)
Club Executive Secretary

Newsletter - September 16, 2020

By John Edward Bauer

Buletin - September 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order by legal-beagle and president, Rick Steinberg, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Makal offered an *ex corde* invocation asking for blessings on our club and its service in the advancement of peace and understanding. (OK, so I made that up, but I'm sure Bill would approve!)

In absentia we noted that Craig Schmutzer is celebrating a birthday this week. Again, we had no reason to sing.

Among items of happy and/or sad news (depending of course on your perspective!):

- Anne Neafie reported that the Habitat for Humanity home currently under construction by the five coalition congregations is framed out and siding is going on.
- Peter Skanavis reported that the housing market is getting very hot. One of his agents received 28 offers to purchase on a home in New Berlin. Definitely sounds like a seller's market.
- Richard Mannisto was very eager to report that this fall WLC has experienced the highest percentage increase of students of all colleges and universities in Wisconsin.
- Paul Roller pointed out that he was wearing a Hawaiian shirt in honor of our absentee Treasurer, Robert Niedermann, who is recuperating at home after knee surgery. It was great to see Robert via Zoom, but also noted that he was conspicuously dressed down.

In other news and announcements from our president person, the Membership Committee had a meeting at Gerv Rose's home. They are planning a special outreach event for an evening with a speaker. John Bauer noted that past club members can be contacted to become virtual members. The president issued an edict from the podium to empower Herr Bauer to pursue this opportunity. Membership applications and club information sheets are available on the registration table each week.

Tom Kirchen announced that orders are pouring (or should I say trickling) in for nuts. Members are encouraged to not only consider placing an order for their own personal use or their own business purposes, but to consider sharing the opportunity with friends, relatives, business associates, and even sworn enemies. So far, about \$1,500 has been collected out of a goal of \$5,000 in gross sales. Coffee is also available year-round with a similar guilt trip applied to sell, sell, sell.

John Bauer introduced our speaker for the day, Dr. Julie Helmrich, a clinical psychologist specializing in narrative, that is, the meaning that human beings attach to the facts of their lives. This has pulled her in the direction of personal development, relationship strengthening, and business development. In May, after George Floyd's murder, she was asked by numerous online entrepreneurs to help navigate the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement on their businesses. One outcome was the teaching of a course on White Fragility.

In her brief presentation, Dr. Helmrich described the five pillars of whiteness which, under the surface of human social interaction, support systemic racism and white privilege. She posed numerous examples of the kinds of thinking that often occurs to those with white status to convince themselves that they are not racist. The pillars can best be described in the seminal work of Robin DeAngelo, author of *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Race*, upon which Dr. Helmrich grounded much of her research on the topic:

◆ I began to see what I think of as the pillars of whiteness ◆ the unexamined beliefs that prop up our racial responses. I could see



Webmaster



Craig Schmutzer
Club Programs Chair



John Edward Bauer
iPast President

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

the power of the belief that only bad people were racist, as well as how individualism allowed white people to exempt themselves from the forces of socialization. I could see how we are taught to think about racism only as discrete acts committed by individual people, rather than as a complex, interconnected system. And in light of so many white expressions of resentment toward people of color, I realized that we see ourselves as entitled to, and deserving of, more than people of color deserve; I saw our investment in a system that serves us. I also saw how hard we worked to deny all this and how defensive we became when these dynamics were named. In turn, I saw how our defensiveness maintained the racial status quo (p.3).

Several questions posed by members about what old white guys can do to address this challenge elicited this advice: Talk to other white men. Call them out when they express racist sentiments. Cultivate relationships with people of color. Listen to their experiences.

Thanks to Dr. Helmrich for a very thought-provoking presentation. Judging from the conversations after the meeting, I'd say she gave everyone a lot to reflect on.

Finally, as President Rick prepared to end the meeting with a joke, a bidding war erupted over whether Rick could be persuaded to abstain from sharing the joke. After an opening bid of \$20 from Rich Mannisto to NOT tell the joke, a back and forth between Rich and Bob Nelson resulted in a \$50 bid from Bob to tell the joke. Rick obliged with what was probably the lamest story yet told. In the final analysis, however, our club's Foundation is \$50 richer. Thanks Bob.

With that, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Bauer, bulletin editor *temporarius*, cigar lover, and general man about town.